2024

AP® World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Short-Answer Question 3

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Question 3: Short Answer No Stimulus — 3 points

General Scoring Notes

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

[a] Identify ONE development in the period circa 1200–1300 that facilitated the establishment of the Mongol Empire. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The decline of the Song dynasty in China helped the Mongols expand in East Asia.
- The fragmentation of the Muslim world after the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate helped the Mongols establish their empire in the Middle East.
- The Mongols' use of superior cavalry tactics allowed them to quickly and efficiently conquer other peoples.
- Genghis Khan's reorganization of Mongol society facilitated the creation of a centralized military, which enabled the conquest of Eurasia.

[b] Identify ONE development in the period circa 1200–1300 that enabled the Mongol Empire to facilitate Afro-Eurasian trade and/or communications. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The Mongol conquests helped bring stability and security for trade.
- The Mongol conquests brought new peoples into their economy and trade networks.
- The unification of regions throughout Afro-Eurasia under the Mongols increased communication and travel among different peoples
- Mongol innovations such as the postal/relay [*yam*] system improved communications.
- Mongol adoption of trade-friendly institutions and practices developed by neighboring cultures, such as paper money and caravanserais, enabled the Mongols to facilitate trade and/or communications.

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[c] Explain ONE reason why the Mongol khanates often facilitated the spread of cultural or religious practices. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- **T**he Mongol khanates encouraged cultural transfers as contact among different peoples increased due to the immense size of the territories conquered by the Mongols.
- Mongol rulers often adopted the religions of their subjects, such as Islam or Buddhism, and this helped increase the spread of those religions.
- The Mongols were generally tolerant of different religious or cultural practices, which allowed those practices to flourish and spread along the Silk Roads.
- The Mongols tolerated a wide range of different practices or traditions in order to demonstrate their legitimacy and strengthen their states, which helped those practices spread through the Mongol khanates.

Total for question 3 3 points

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A. One development that helped to facilitate the Mongol Empire was the declining state of many once powerful states in Eurasia. The Song Dynasty in China lost much of its Northern territory to the Jurchens and was in political decline. Similarly, the Abbasid Caliphate in the Middle East had much of its territory tooken by the Mamluks, Delhi Sultanate, and the Seljuks along with a weakening political authority like in Song China. The politcal and military weakness present in these areas allowed for the Mongols with their strict military tactics and exceptional use of bows and horse-back riding to expand their empire and conquer these territories in Asia.
B. One development that allowed the Mongols to spread communications and technology like Chinese paper-making was their administration of the Silk Roads which helped to facilitate land-based trade known as the Pax Monglica. Their adminstration of this network of exchange along with an effective postal system along it known as the Yam Systeam allowed for the facilitation of Eurasian exchange.
C. One reason why the Mongol khanates allowed for the spread of cultural/religious customs was to improve the administration and innovation present within their empire. Before the unification of Mongol tribes under Chinggis Khan, the Mongols were a pastoral-nomadic people in the Eurasian steppes who practiced an ethnic, aminist religion and who didn't produce any knowledge or valuable commodities of their own. The tolerance they practiced throughout their empire allowed them to use the proper political administration and artisanship of the scholars and officials in their empire to help them control their conquered territory and gain great advantages in terms of wealth and knowledge. This can be seen in the Mongols' adaption of the Uyghur script by Turkic people they conquered to create their own language along with using the silk-making skills of the Chinese to faciltate trade on the Silk Roads and gain wealth off of taxation.

A. One development in the period 1200-1300 that facilitated the establisment of the mongol empire was Gunpowder. Gunpowder allowed the Mongol Empire to expand their power to different areas in Eurasia. Gunpowder allowed them to takeover different territories with ease.
B. One development in the period 1200-1300 that enabled mongol empire to help facilitate trade was the Pax-Mongolica. The pax Mongolica was a period a peace during the rules of the mongols and this allowed there to be more trade on the silk road without robberies.
C. One reason why Mongol Khanates often allowed spread of other cultures was because they were religously tolerant. This means that the Mongols were similiar to the rule of Akbar in the Mughal dynasty. They encoraged different practices along the silk road as well as in their khanates also known as territories.

a.One delevopment in the period cicra 1200-1300 that facilliated the establishment of the Mongol Empire is the exvhange between states.
b. One development in the period cicra 1200-1300 that enabled the Mongol Empire to faciliate Afro-eurasian trade and/or communications is trade routs and new trade technology including the astrolobe.
c. One reason why the Mongol khanates often faciliated the spread on cultural or religous practices is to create piece within the empire. The mongol empire was an extremley tolerant empire. With this being siaid, this allowed the mongols to expand theyre empire without many complains as states were still allowed to practice they're religion.

Short Answer Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Students were expected to answer three questions about the Mongol Empire and its successor Khanates. For part (a), students were asked to identify one development from the period circa 1200–1300 that contributed to the establishment of the Mongol Empire. For part (b), students were asked to identify one development that enabled the Mongols to facilitate trade and communications in Afro-Eurasia. For part (c), students were asked to explain the role of the Mongol Khanates in cultural and/or religious diffusion.

The question tested content primarily from Unit 2 of the course framework although students could also leverage knowledge from Unit 1 in their responses, especially to part (a). The question primarily addressed content from Topics 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, and 2.6.

Sample: 3A
Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for part (a) for identifying the declines of the Song and Abbasid states as developments that facilitated the establishment of the Mongol Empire.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) for identifying the Yam system as a development that enabled the Mongol Empire to facilitate Afro-Eurasian trade.

The response earned 1 point for part (c) explaining how Mongol religious tolerance facilitated the spread of cultural practices.

Sample: 3B
Score: 2

The response did not earn the point for part (a) because it inaccurately characterizes the relationship between gunpowder and the establishment of the Mongol Empire.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) because it identifies the protection of trade during the Pax Mongolica as a development that facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade.

The response earned 1 point for part (c) because it explains how Mongol religious tolerance facilitated the spread of religion.

Sample: 3C
Score: 1

The response did not earn the point for part (a) because “exchange between states” does not identify a specific development that led to the establishment of the Mongol Empire.

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Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

The response did not earn the point for part (b) because the "trade routes and new trade technology" is too vague to constitute a historical development in the time period, while the example given of astrolabe was not particularly relevant to Mongol facilitation of Afro-Eurasian trade or communications, which depended more on well-established routes such as the Silk Roads rather than exploration of new lands or regions.

The response earned 1 point for part (c) because it explains how the Mongols used religious tolerance as a means of maintaining peace within their empire.

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